

ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is an apparatus and method for deforming a sheet material. The  
5 apparatus includes a deforming roller having a plurality of circumferential depressions and  
at least one cord in rotational engagement with the roller and adapted to press the  
material into the depressions. The method includes the steps of providing a rotating  
deforming roller having circumferential depressions, at least one cord aligned to fit within  
the depressions and at least one sheet material, and feeding the material in a first  
10 direction between the roller and cord and deforming the material by pressing it at least  
partially into the depressions with the cord. The deformation may include stretching or  
extending the material, and/or aperturing the material, and/or producing topographical  
shapes or surface features in the material.